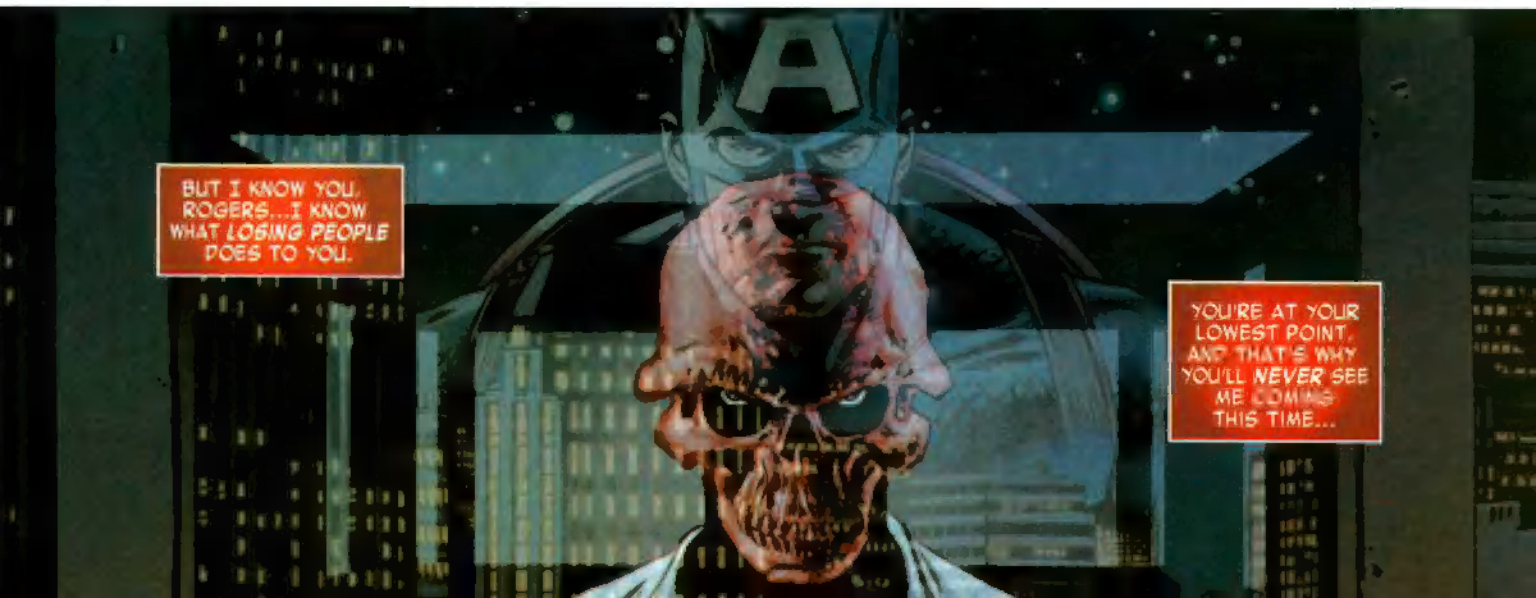
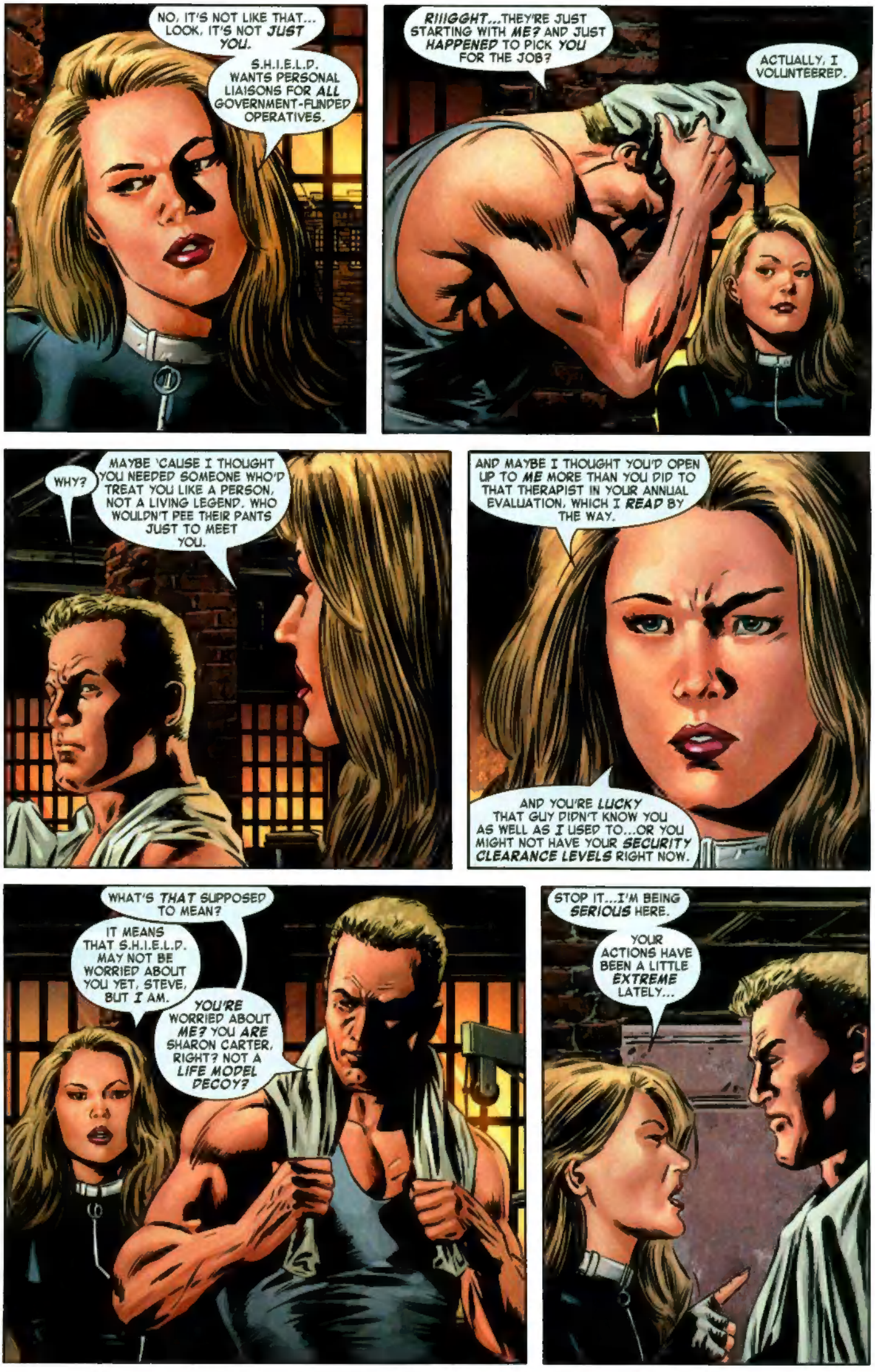
Five Years Ago--Russia, Near The Kazakhstan Border
<WE CAUGHT THIS ONE TRYING TO BREACH THE PERIMETER FENCE TO THE NORTH, GENERAL LUKIN.>
<...UHHH... WHAT IS...?>
<THE NEURAL BLASTERS TOOK HIM DOWN JUST AS EXPECTED.>
...UHHH...
FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION, HERR SKULL...THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT, AND THEN WE CAN GET TO OUR BUSINESS.
DON'T APOLOGIZE, GENERAL...I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO WAIT WHEN ENTERTAINMENT IS PROVIDED.
KEEP YOUR SATISFACTION TO YOURSELF, SADIST.
WHAT I DO HERE, I TAKE NO JOY IN.

...WHILE MY SPIES KEPT YOU UNDER WATCH.

THEY'VE SEEN YOUR TRAGEDIES... EVERYTHING YOU'VE LOST.
DAILY BUGLE
AVENGERS DISBAND
HAWKEYE DEAD

AND THEY'VE KEPT YOU DISTRACTED, TOO. WHILE YOU TRY TO KEEP YOUR GAME FACE ON.
TRY TO ACT LIKE EVERYTHING IS JUST THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE.

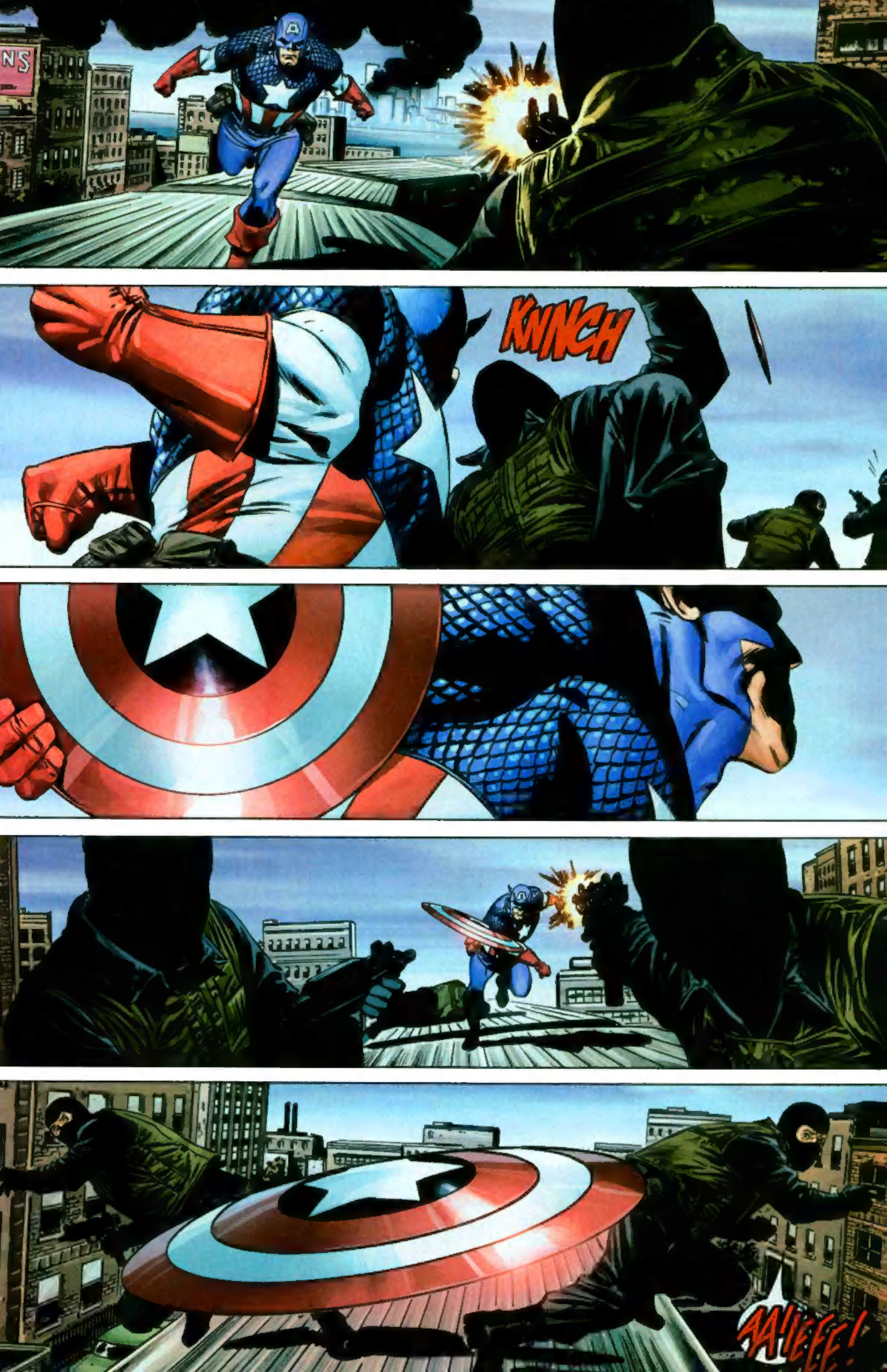

BUT I KNOW YOU, ROGERS...I KNOW WHAT LOSING PEOPLE DOES TO YOU.
YOU'RE AT YOUR LOWEST POINT, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME COMING THIS TIME...


NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... LOOK, IT'S NOT JUST YOU.
S.H.I.E.L.D. WANTS PERSONAL LIAISONS FOR ALL GOVERNMENT-FUNDED OPERATIVES.
RIIIGGHT...THEY'RE JUST STARTING WITH ME? AND JUST HAPPENED TO PICK YOU FOR THE JOB?
ACTUALLY, I VOLUNTEERED.
WHY?
MAYBE 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED SOMEONE WHO'D TREAT YOU LIKE A PERSON, NOT A LIVING LEGEND. WHO WOULDN'T PEE THEIR PANTS JUST TO MEET YOU.
AND MAYBE I THOUGHT YOU'D OPEN UP TO ME MORE THAN YOU DID TO THAT THERAPIST IN YOUR ANNUAL EVALUATION, WHICH I READ BY THE WAY.
AND YOU'RE LUCKY THAT GUY DIDN'T KNOW YOU AS WELL AS I USED TO...OR YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE LEVELS RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. MAY NOT BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU YET, STEVE, BUT I AM.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME? YOU ARE SHARON CARTER, RIGHT? NOT A LIFE MODEL DECOY?
STOP IT...I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE.
YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE EXTREME LATELY...

"...TAKE THE INCIDENT LAST WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE..."

"LAST WEEK?

"THOSE MEN WERE TERRORISTS."


KNNCH
AAIEEE!